



# Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian**  
**Northern District of New York**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **FOUR CHARGED WITH CREDIT CARD FRAUD**

RICHARD S. HARTUNIAN, United States Attorney, Northern District of New York announces the filing of criminal Complaints charging **KAREEM HIGHSMITH (37, of Syracuse, New York)**, **GLENN FRANCIS (27, of Brooklyn, NY)**, and **MAURICE PUGH (40, of Syracuse, New York)**, with the following offenses: (1) using one or more access devices with intent to defraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1029(a)(1); (2) conspiracy to commit access device fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1029(a)(5) and (b)(2); and (3) aggravated identity theft, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1028A. KAREEM HIGHSMITH was also charged in a separate Complaint with being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1). If found guilty, the defendants face a statutory maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment; a mandatory minimum sentence of 2 years imprisonment; and a maximum fine of \$250,000.00.

A fourth individual, **KERVON WARRICK (28, of Brooklyn, New York)**, was also charged in a separate criminal complaint charging him with possessing fifteen or more devices which are counterfeit or unauthorized access devices with intent to defraud. If found guilty, the defendant faces a statutory maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment; a mandatory minimum sentence of 2 years imprisonment; and a maximum fine of \$250,000.00.

These arrests followed a lengthy investigation conducted by the United States Secret Service, Syracuse Resident Office, the Syracuse Police Department, the New York State Police, and the Manlius Police Department. Search warrants executed by agents in Syracuse revealed a counterfeit manufacturing operation at the residence of KAREEM HIGHSMITH along with a stolen .45 caliber handgun. As a result of the execution of three search warrants, agents located a device utilized to manufacture counterfeit credit cards, numerous counterfeit credit cards, and numerous gift cards that were purchased using the counterfeit credit cards. After obtaining the stolen credit card account numbers, the above four individuals created counterfeit credit cards and used them throughout New York State and other states in the Northeast to purchase gift cards and store merchandise. The agents are in the process of analyzing the evidence to determine the amount of the financial loss associated with these offenses.

The charges and allegations contained in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ransom P. Reynolds. Further questions may be directed to Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney John Duncan at (315) 448-0672.